

# Scoil Mochua

## Newsletter September 2023



### **Welcome back!**

Welcome back to a new school year. It is lovely to see the children skipping into school every day, to hear the banter in the classrooms, and to hear the shrieks of laughter from the school yard at lunch time. We look forward to another busy, productive year filled with learning, fun and friendships.

A very special welcome to all of our new Junior Infants in Oak, Ask, Willow and Hazel. The children are settling well into life in “big school” and we are delighted that you chose Scoil Mochua for their all-important primary education. We may be biased, but we think they will have 8 great years with us, and we are very much looking forward to getting to know them and watching them flourish.

### **Dates for your diary – Term 1**

Please refer to the School Calendar [here](#) for all school closures

Parents’ Association AGM: **Tues 19<sup>th</sup> Sept**, 8pm, Small Hall

Junior Infant Meeting (for parents of all new Junior Infants): **Wed 27<sup>th</sup> Sept**, 7.30pm, Small Hall

Please note, Parent-Teacher Meetings will take place in January 2024

### **Uniform**

Thank you for your support with the return to the full school uniform, and thank you to the Parents’ Association (PA) for organising the free uniform swap-shop in advance of the new school year. The PA will run this on a termly basis, and we will inform you of the next date via Aladdin. Details on our uniform are [here](#).

During the warm weather, the children may wear **grey shorts**.

Please note, for health and safety, children are not permitted to wear long earrings. Stud earrings only are permitted at school.

### **Parking**

As most of you know by now, Kildare County Council have installed bike lanes along the length of Aghards Road. As a result, there is no parking, or drop down area for the school along that road. We have a small car park at the front of the bike rack which has 7 car spaces. We ask that this is used for prompt drop off and pick up on school days. We are happy for the community to use it outside of school hours. Please be mindful of local residents and safety issues when parking to collect children.

### **Cycling / Scooting / Walking to School**

We encourage as many children as possible to cycle, scoot or walk to school. The exercise will provide the children with a healthy start to the day, and it will have the added advantage of reducing traffic congestion and pollution.

Our school participates every year in the 'Cycle Right' Safe Cycle Skills programme sponsored by Kildare County Council. Our three 5th classes will engage with the programme in the coming weeks. Many thanks to the PA who subsidise the lessons.

### **Friendship Week 18th-22nd September**

Always a highlight on our school calendar, Friendship Week will kick off on the 18th of September and run until Friday the 22nd. Emphasis will be placed on the importance of friendship, how to make new friends and how we can make sure that everyone is included. Children can look forward to friendship-themed art activities, stories, games and songs.

### **Pupil Insurance**

All children in the school are covered by 24-hour insurance through the school charges. This covers your child's medical and dental expenses if they have an accident in school, or in the evenings in activities not related to the school. Please contact the office if you need to claim through this insurance. Further details are available here <https://tinyurl.com/28fkrn35>

### **Punctuality and absenteeism**

It is important that all children are in school on time. Children can arrive to school from 8.50am. **Lessons start in all classrooms at 9.10am sharp**, so all children should be seated in class at this time. Punctuality is an admirable trait that will stand to your child throughout his/her life and we would really appreciate your support in promoting it.

If your child is late for school, he/she should not go to the yard but should enter the school at the main door. We will inform you if your child is regularly late for school.

If your child is absent, there is no need to phone the school. You will get an alert on Aladdin and you will be prompted to enter the reason for the absence.

Please see <http://www.scoilmochnua.com/attendance-information.html> for further information on attendance and absences.

### **Mobile Phones**

As the mobile-phone-ban-in-schools story dominates the media, we would like to reassure parents that the use of mobile phones has always been banned in Scoil Mochua. As per our Acceptable Use Policy and our Code of Behaviour, the use of mobile phones and smart watches which have cameras or internet access are not permitted in school. If children need to be able to contact parents after school, phones / watches can be kept in school bags, switched off, until after school.

We appeal to all parents not to allow unsupervised access to smart phones, and particularly to remove phones from bedrooms in the evenings. This will mean that we will spend less

school time dealing with the fall out when social media issues arise. We thank you for your support in this regard.

### **Internet Safety**

Please see Parent Tip of the Month [here](#) regarding online safety. Barnardos is hosting a free webinar for parents on this topic on Wednesday 13th September at 7:30pm. Click on the link below for more details and how register:

[https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_rnE4NgGqRY-UICEGXgCzsw#/registration](https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_rnE4NgGqRY-UICEGXgCzsw#/registration)

### **After-School Activities**

After-School Activities are gradually starting back up in the school, with more in the pipeline. Please check out our dedicated webpage for updates <http://www.scoilmochua.com/after-school-activities.html>

### **Parents' Association**

We are fortunate to have a supportive, innovative PA in Scoil Mochua, led by Chairperson Aisling Whelan. They organise fun activities for the children throughout the year, and help out with various school events. To find out more about the PA, please join us at the PA AGM on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> September at 8pm in the Small Hall.

If you are interested in joining, have any questions or just want to find out more, please email [pa@scoilmochua.com](mailto:pa@scoilmochua.com). Follow them on Instagram @scoil\_mochua\_celbridge and on Facebook, Scoil Mochua Parents Association.

### **Parents' Nominees on the Board of Management (BOM)**

The four-year term for the current Board of Management ends on 30th November 2023. Many thanks to Cara Cumiskey and Brian Daly, outgoing Parent Nominees on the BOM, for their fantastic support, their hard work and their loyalty. Their contribution to the school is greatly appreciated.

Nominations for two new Parent Nominees will be accepted directly after the PA AGM. If there is more than one nominee of either gender, then a secret ballot will be held to elect the new BOM member. Please contact the office at [info@scoilmochua](mailto:info@scoilmochua) if you require any further information on this role and the Principal will be happy to answer any questions you may have.

### **Medication / Medical Conditions**

If your child has a medical condition that requires medication to be kept in school and administered by school staff in an emergency situation, please ensure that you have informed the class teacher and completed the relevant form which is available from the Deputy Principal, Ms Corr. Please ensure that we have two sets of in-date medication in school at all times.

### **Communication Guidelines**

We are delighted to be using Aladdin for the majority of our communication. We hope you find it efficient and effective.

Effective communication is essential in nurturing positive, respectful relationships within the school community. Please see our Communication Guidelines on the homepage of our website for important information relating to school communication <http://www.scoilmochua.com/communication-guidelines.html>

### **Healthy Eating**

A reminder that no nuts or products containing nuts are permitted on school premises. Popcorn, crisps, frubes or chewing gum are also not permitted. A small treat is permitted on Fridays only. Where possible, please avoid sending food to school in tinfoil or cling film as these materials cannot be recycled. Please see our healthy eating policy at the link below: <http://www.scoilmochua.com/all-policies.html>

### **Social Media**

To keep up to date with our busy school life, please visit our website regularly [www.scoilmochua.com](http://www.scoilmochua.com). Follow us on **Instagram Scoil\_Mochua\_Celbridge** and **Twitter @ScoilMochua**.